

Racial Justice Fund

People of color represent nearly half of all Cincinnati residents, yet there are significant racial disparities in just about any issue that philanthropy cares about –from education and economic mobility to health care to housing. These racial disparities of social and economic well-being have persisted for decades, and in many cases, the gaps are widening in our local communities.

In response to this glaring need, Greater Cincinnati Foundation (GCF) launched the Racial Justice Fund (RJF) in June 2020 during the civil unrest that ensued after the death of George Floyd, Ahmed Arbery, Breonna Taylor, and others. GCF’s Governing Board boldly took action by establishing the Racial Justice Fund as an initial commitment of \$5 million over 5 years to advance issues of justice and fairness in our community.

Today, the Fund continues to support initiatives, projects, and programs that combat racism and provide systemic solutions to the racial disparities that exist in our region.

We envision a society where its systems (e.g. education, criminal justice, and health care, housing the economy) are just, fair, and inclusive, enabling all people to participate and reach their full potential. Our charge is to:

- Lead, with compassion for social justice
- Stand in the gap to support all those who are affected by inequity
- Create space at the table for all groups to contribute
- Develop and implement strategies that address the root causes of racial inequities
- Invest in solutions that benefit the Black community for the benefit the entire community as a stronger, more cohesive region

Eligibility

Funding will be awarded to 501(c)(3)s or others with a fiscal agent.

Funding will be awarded to organizations (or programs) that serve in one of our eight counties in Ohio, Kentucky, and Indiana: Butler, Clermont, Hamilton or Warren in Ohio; Boone, Campbell or Kenton in Kentucky; and Dearborn County in Indiana.

Priority will be given to organizations that are led by Black and indigenous people and people of color, and those engaged in efforts that are grounded in the needs of diverse communities in Greater Cincinnati.

We will also prioritize organizations and projects that are resident-led, promote community leadership, empower residents, and create welcoming and inclusive community engagement among BIPOC residents using an asset-based approach.

What We Fund

GCF defines racial justice *as the systemic sharing of power, opportunities, and access for all in order to end racial disparities and become a community where every resident can thrive, regardless of the color of their skin.* Through our investments in community-based programs and policy advocacy organizations, we aim to increase the ability of Black, indigenous, and all people of color to determine and sustain a fair and just future for themselves and their communities.

The Fund is designed to support organizations, groups and initiatives working toward racial justice in the following areas:

- Voter rights and civil rights
- Criminal justice and police reform
- Solutions that dismantle systemic inequality in economic opportunities for Black, Indigenous, and all people of color
- Solutions that address housing discrimination and equitable access to housing for Black families
- Solutions to access in healthcare for black and brown communities and reduction in other health disparities
- Activities that promote Black leadership and grassroots advocacy, including emerging voices, ideas and collaborations on the front lines of challenging historical and cultural attitudes.
- Education on the importance of racial equity, justice, narrative change, and racial healing

Grants from the Fund will be made to organizations throughout our Greater Cincinnati region, with priority given to organizations that are led by Black, indigenous people, and people of color. We believe black leadership and grassroots advocacy, including emerging voices, ideas, and collaborations on the front lines of challenging historical and cultural attitudes.



How to Apply

GCF staff work closely with a diverse group of community partners to initiate and support projects that advance our priorities and goals listed above. If you think your project or organization might be a fit for our Economic Mobility program, we encourage you to submit your idea through our [online inquiry form](#).

Following the submission of this form, a foundation staff member will contact you within 30 days to provide instructions on next steps. If you do not receive a response within 30 days, please contact werisetgether@gcfdn.org

Funding Decisions and Terms of Grant

Applications are accepted year-round (or on a rolling basis), by invitation only. Depending on the grant or project, we may ask to schedule a phone call, meeting, or site visit as part of the review process. Funding decisions will be made within 90 days of grant submission. Grantees will be required to submit a final report 60 days after the conclusion of the grant period.

Further Assistance

Clarifications on the guidelines can be directed to the Racial Justice Fund Director at werisetgether@gcfdn.org

If you have technical questions about the application process or the status of your inquiry or request, please contact Hannah Hilditch, Community Strategies Coordinator at hannah.hilditch@gcfdn.org